

AGM 2002 and MEMBERS EVENING

At the AGM this January members heard a report on the year's activities by Phyllis Rouston which were regrettably limited by the Foot and Mouth restrictions. The treasurer's report, presented by David Kay, showed that we are in a stronger position financially this year due to the increase in membership fees and savings made on printing expenses. Changes in the constitution regarding the roles of committee members and terms of office were explained by Harry Hawkins and approved by those present. The chairman's resignation was accepted. The role remains vacant at present as no one has come forward but duties will be carried out by existing committee members until a replacement is found. On a positive note we have two new members on the committee: Richard Stevens and Martin Joyce. Martin Raiton will continue to sit on the committee as Newsletter Editor.

Subscriptions became due in January and should be sent to David Kay if still outstanding. The present committee is therefore:

Chairman: Vacant
Secretary: Phyllis Rouston
Treasurer: David Kay
Vice-Chairman: Harry Hawkins
Editor: Martin Raiton
Publicity: Martin Joyce
Members: Richard Stevens
Please do come forward if you can

Following the AGM on Tuesday 15th January Liz Hawkins, a member of the group, gave a talk on the Carlisle Records Office.

Liz began by saying that the Carlisle Records Office was one of four in the county, they are repositories for hand written documents. She emphasised that great care had to be taken when manuscripts are consulted and that the advice from the record's officers must be followed. Some of the problems are that manuscripts may be on thin paper which crumbles, or on thick paper, not unlike blotting paper, which is easily marked and indented. Parchment is much stronger but it dries out and the ink on the surface flakes off. Photocopying is very destructive to parchment.

The Carlisle records are housed at the castle, where free parking is available. There are three main collections, the Diocesan, the Dean and Chapter's and the Lowther collection which is vast and is available to anyone undertaking personal research.

The Diocesan collection contains faculties from 1700. Permits from the faculty office are required for any changes made to churches such as the moving of pews, or alterations to church yards. An example was shown of the faculty which granted the Earl of Thanet permission to demolish a church on Stainmore and rebuild it at his expense. Probate was granted by the Ecclesiastical Court from 1540-1857 excluding the years of the civil war and wills form part of this collection. It was interesting to learn that the term real estate appears in the

early records! A number of wills were available to study. Liz then explained that "Peculiars" in the context of probate records referred to those of manors, usually owned by the church, that had the power to grant probate and that there were two such manors in this area Ravenstonedale and Temple Sowerby.

The collection of the Dean and Chapter consists of papers produced by them, such as the records of tenancies of the manors they owned and of records given to them. They are the Bishop's Registers and the Machell Papers.

The Bishop's Registers include three from the medieval period. The register of The Bishop of Carlisle 1353-1362 has been transcribed and published and a copy of the book was available to look at. Thomas Machell was the incumbent of Kirby Thore from 1670-1690. He was a respected antiquarian who collected a large number and variety of documents, maps, plans and drawings which are well indexed in a published volume. Copies of some papers were available for the group to look at.

Those present had time to study the documents, many of them relating to the Appleby area and to ask questions before thanking Liz for an interesting and informative talk.

Phyllis H Rouston



Contents:

PAGE 1: Members Evening: Carlisle Record Office
PAGE 2: Medieval Defences of Cumbria
PAGE 3: The Hanging Walls of Mark Anthony Survey

MEDIEVAL DEFENCES OF CUMBRIA

By Niall Maguire

Mr Maguire began by showing a few slides of defences from pre-Norman times, when the entity of Cumbria was difficult to identify and when it was not always evident who the enemy was. For a time Cumbria was part of the kingdom of Strathclyde and after the establishment of the kingdom of Scotland the Scots considered it to be their territory. Defences of this time include the castle at Caerlaverock and the austere Hermitage castle near Newcastleton.

Mr Maguire then outlined some of the historical events that influenced the need and type of defences built in the border area, known as the debatable land, and in particular in the Eden Valley. He emphasised that the need for defence continued beyond the Union of the Crowns. The Norman Conquest in 1066 did not immediately affect Cumbria. In 1086 large areas were on the Scottish side of the border and thus not included in the Domesday Book. In 1092 William II, the Conqueror's son, marched north across Stainmore through the Eden Valley to Carlisle re-establishing it as a fortress. He also built castles along the route, examples are those at Brough, Pendragon, Appleby and Kirk Oswald, and he established the Solway as a frontier between his kingdom and Scotland. Castles were built along the border such as those at Liddell, Brampton and later at

Naworth. Many of the castles started as motte-and-bailey constructions but were later re-built in stone. Religious houses were established, to some extent to administer the land, and settlers were introduced. Many families have Norman origins, among them are the Bowe's, Balliol's and Bruce's.

There was a short period of stability before the Anglo-Scottish feuds resumed culminating in Edward I's claim to the sovereignty of Scotland and subsequent wars which came to an end at Bannockburn in 1314. Border defences were improved and strengthened, at this time even churches were fortified. Those at Newton Arlosh and Burgh by Sands are good examples.

The borderland was still not peaceful. The Scots raided far into English territory, a tactic taken up by the English, who responded with raids into Scottish territory. During the 14th century many domestic buildings were fortified and pele towers were built. These fortified buildings are most evident in vulnerable districts with a marked concentration in the Eden Valley; examples include Yanwath Hall, Dacre Castle and Clifton Hall.

By the time of Elizabeth I England was a sophisticated nation state and, although border raiding continued, little was spent on defending the north as the

greater threat came from Catholic Europe. The local nobility bore the brunt of the defence. Every manor had to provide and equip a certain number of fighting men. They also had to provide men as look-outs and a number of hills are named watch hill. Beacons were lit to raise the alarm and it is thought that 90 beacon sites existed across Cumbria, and that messages could be conveyed 30-40 miles in a few minutes. In an attempt to maintain the law and keep the peace the debatable lands were divided into six Marches an East, Middle and West March on either side of the border, each with a Warden. It was well into the 17th century before peace was achieved, for example Penrith was sacked by three hundred Scots in 1627. During this period another type of defensive building appeared, the bastle, a smaller fortified houses with secure accommodation for the family upstairs and the animals accommodated beneath. These were sometimes built in small groups and some were built end to end for greater protection.

Mr Maguire conclude by showing a series of slides of the many castles, fortified houses, pele towers and bastles in Cumbria. He highlighted their specific features, and encouraged those present to visit many of them. Perhaps some summer outings!

Phyllis Rouston

Earthwork Survey and Representation: THE HANGING WALLS OF MARK ANTHONY

By Martin Railton

The Hanging Walls of Mark Anthony are a series of impressive cultivation terraces at Ranbeck Farm, Kirkland. This rather grand title refers to deliberately constructed banks probably built in either the Roman or Medieval periods, although very little is known about them.

Last Autumn a survey was carried out by myself and another member of Appleby Archaeology Group, Tricia Crompton as an experiment in the graphic representation of earthworks. The survey consisted of recording the terraces in three dimensions using a Total Station. This equipment allows measurements to be recorded digitally so that they can be downloaded directly into a computer. A large number of points were surveyed over several days in order that a three-dimensional model of the site could be built using the latest Computer Aided Design (CAD) software.

In addition to the computer model a traditional hachure plan of the site was drawn. Hachures are used to represent three dimensions by their length and thickness. The 'head' of a hachure represents the top of a slope, their length indicates the horizontal distance of the slope and their spacing or thickness is varied to indicate the steepness of a slope. By this method it is possible to convey an impression of the site's topography in two dimensions. Fig.1 shows the Hachure plan of the terraces at Ranbeck Farm.

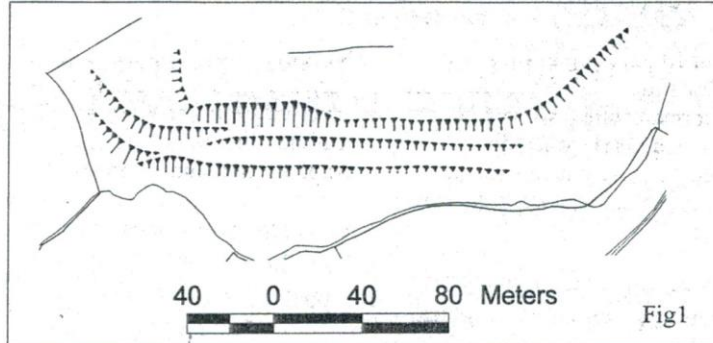


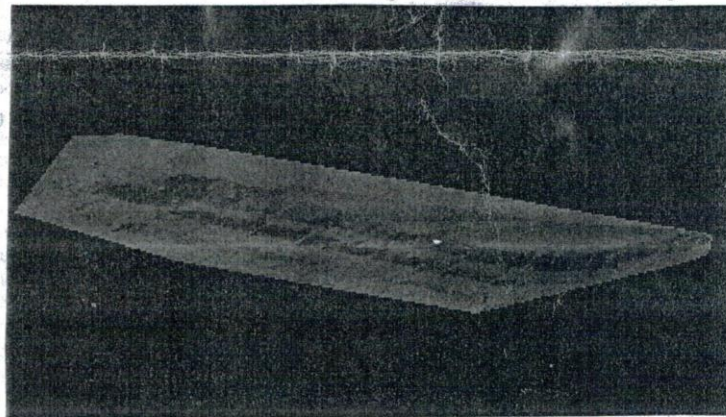
Fig1

A hachure plan needs relatively few measurements to be recorded in the field compared to 3D Surface Model which was the ultimate purpose of the survey. The larger the number of points surveyed, the more accurate the final image will be. 500 points were recorded in order to produce the model shown in Fig. 2. However over such a large area this is relatively few! The model has a rather jagged appearance because the computer software has to estimate the character of areas in between the points surveyed.

Is the extra work needed to produce a 3D model worth it compared to the traditional hachure plan? Certainly the model looks very impressive in full colour on a PC (although it does not reproduce as well on paper). It can also be used for further research and analysis using GIS (Geographical Information Systems). The hachure plan, however, is more accessible, does not rely on expensive technology, is understood by most people and can be published more easily.

What do you think?

Fig2



The Hanging Walls of Mark Anthony: 3D Surface Model

SPRING EVENTS

DISCOVERING A LANDSCAPE OF INDUSTRY

Tuesday 2nd April 7.00 pm
Appleby Market Hall

Andrew Lowe of the Lake District National Park Authority will be giving the group a talk about industrial landscapes and archaeology. For this talk we will be meeting at the Supper Room, upstairs from Appleby Market Hall in the market square.

Non-members are welcome: £1.50 entrance fee.

LIVING HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Tuesday 14th May 7.00 pm
Appleby Grammar School

Living History is about recreating how people lived in the past. It is used both for entertainment and for education. But it is also a way of making new discoveries about the past and is valuable for research purposes. Adrian Waite of the Red Wyvern Society will introduce us to life in medieval Britain and describe some of the discoveries made through living history.

Non-members are welcome: £1.50 entrance fee.

STONE CIRCLES & STANDING STONES OF EDEN

23rd March-September 2002
Penrith Museum

There will be an exhibition starting shortly at Penrith museum about the significance of stone circles, past and present. It will include archaeological, mythological, literary and artistic interpretations of the stones. It should be interesting and its free!

KILMARTIN

17th-19th May

A weekend trip to explore the prehistoric landscape of Kilmartin, Argyll. For accommodation details contact Harry Hawkins (01768) 864340

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